



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
CODES ENFORCEMENT SECTION
500 James Robertson Parkway
Davy Crockett Tower, Tenth Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1162
PHONE: 615-741-7190
FAX: 615-253-3267**

Haunted Houses / Special Amusement Buildings

For state buildings, educational occupancies, and any other occupancy requiring an inspection by the state fire marshal for initial licensure, NFPA 101 would apply in addition to the IBC & IFC. The following contains excerpts from NFPA 101, 2006 IBC and 2006 IFC that apply to **Special Amusement Buildings**. Local governments cannot lessen the requirements, but can accept equivalent methods of protection.

The State Fire Marshal's Office will only be involved in plans review and inspection of facilities that have a capacity of having 300 or more people located outside for the 36 exempt areas. The 36 exempt areas listed below are solely responsible for the review and approval of these occupancies within their jurisdictional limits.

The 36 approved exempt areas listed below have the option of adopting the Uniform Fire Code (NFPA 1) or International Fire Code (IFC). The adopted codes must be in effect at the time the exemption is granted.

The 36 exempt areas mentioned above are:

**Alcoa
Athens
Bartlett
Brentwood
Bristol
Chattanooga
Clarksville
Cleveland
Collierville
Columbia
Cookeville
Dyersburg
Farragut
Franklin
Gatlinburg
Goodlettsville
Hendersonville
Jackson
Johnson City
Kingsport**

**Knox County
Knoxville
Lebanon
Madison County
Maryville
Memphis/Shelby County

Millington
Montgomery County
Murfreesboro
Nashville/Davidson County
*Except Oak Hill, Belle Meade,
(Forest Hills, Berry Hill, &
Lakewood)*
Oak Ridge
Paris
Pigeon Forge
Sevierville
White House
Mt. Juliet**

2006 UNIFORM FIRE CODE (NFPA 1)
NFPA 101

3.3.28.10* Special Amusement Building. A building that is temporary, permanent, or mobile that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around, or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement arranged so that the egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path; or is not readily available due to the mode of conveyance through the building or structure. [101B,2002]

A.3.3.28.10 Special Amusement Building. Such structures include amusements such as a Haunted house, a roller coaster-type ride within a building, a multilevel play structure within a building, a submarine ride, and similar amusements where the occupants are not in the open air.

12.4.7* Special Amusement Buildings.

A.12.4.7 Where a special amusement building is installed inside another building, such as within an exhibit hall, the special amusement building requirements apply only to the special amusement building. For example, the smoke detectors required by 12.4.7.4 are not required to be connected to the building's system. Where installed in an exhibit hall, such smoke detectors are also required to comply with the provisions applicable to an exhibit.

12.4.7.1* General. Special amusement buildings, regardless of occupant load, shall meet the requirements for assembly occupancies in addition to the requirements of 12.4.7, unless the special amusement building is a multilevel play structure that is not more than 10ft. (3050 mm) in height and has aggregate horizontal projections not exceeding 160 ft 2 (15 m2).

A.12.4.7.1 The aggregate horizontal projections of a multilevel play structure are indicative of the number of children who might be within the structure and at risk from a fire or similar emergency. The word "aggregate" is used in recognition of the fact that the platforms and tubes that make up the multilevel play structure run above each other at various levels. In calculating the area of the projections, it is important to account for all areas that might be expected to be occupied within, on top, or beneath the components of the structure when the structure is used for its intended function.

12.4.7.2* Automatic Sprinklers. Every special amusement building, other than buildings or structures not exceeding 10ft. (3050 mm) in height and not exceeding 160 ft2 (15 m2) in aggregate horizontal projection, shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system installed and maintained in accordance with Section 9.7.

A.12.4.7.2 See A.12.4.7.1(above).

12.4.7.3 Temporary Water Supply. Where the special amusement building required to be sprinklered by 12.4.7.2 is movable or portable, the sprinkler water supply shall be permitted to be provided by an approved, temporary means.

12.4.7.4 Smoke Detection. Where the nature of the special amusement building is such that it operates in reduced lighting levels, the building shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 9.6.

12.4.7.5 Alarm Initiation. Actuation of any smoke detection system device shall sound an alarm at a constantly attended location on the premises.

12.4.7.6 Illumination. Actuation of the automatic sprinkler system, or any other suppression system, or actuation of a smoke detection system having an approved verification or cross-zoning operation capability shall provide the following:

- (1) Cause illumination in the means of egress to increase to that required by Section 7.8
- (2) Termination of any conflicting or confusing sounds and visuals

12.4.7.7 Exit Marking.

12.4.7.7.1, Exit marking shall be in accordance with Section 7.10.

12.4.7.7.2, Floor proximity exit signs shall be provided in accordance with 7.10.1.6.

12.4.7.7.3*, In special amusement buildings where mazes, mirrors, or other designs are used to confound the egress path, approved directional exit marking that becomes apparent in an emergency shall be provided.

A.12.4.7.7.3 Consideration should be given to the provision of directional exit marking on or adjacent to the floor.

12.4.7.8 Interior Finish. Interior wall and ceiling finish materials complying with Section 10.2 shall be Class A throughout.

2006 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDING. A building that is temporary, permanent or mobile that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around or over a course in any direction as a form of amusement arranged so that the egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or an intentionally confounded egress path, or is not readily available because of the mode of conveyance through the building or structure.

907.2.11 Special amusement buildings.

An approved automatic smoke detection system shall be provided in special amusement buildings in accordance with this section.

Exception: In areas where ambient conditions will cause a smoke detection system to alarm, an approved alternative type of automatic detector shall be installed.

907.2.11.1 Alarm.

Activation of any single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system or any other automatic fire detection device shall immediately sound an alarm at the building at a constantly attended location from which emergency action can be initiated, including the capability of manual initiation of requirements in Section 907.2.11.2.

907.2.11.2 System response.

The activation of two or more smoke detectors, a single smoke detector with alarm verification, the automatic sprinkler system or other approved fire detection device shall automatically:

1. Cause illumination of the means of egress with light of not less than 1 foot-candle

- (11 lux) at the walking surface level;
2. Stop any conflicting or confusing sounds and visual distractions; and
3. Activate an approved directional exit marking that will become apparent in an emergency.

Such system response shall also include activation of a prerecorded message, clearly audible throughout the special amusement building, instructing patrons to proceed to the nearest exit. Alarm signals used in conjunction with the prerecorded message shall produce a sound which is distinctive from other sounds used during normal operation. The wiring to the auxiliary devices and equipment used to accomplish the above fire safety functions shall be monitored for integrity in accordance with NFPA 72.

907.2.11.3 Emergency voice/alarm communication system.

An emergency voice/alarm communication system, which is also allowed to serve as a public address system, shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 72 and be audible throughout the entire special amusement building.

914.7 Special amusement buildings.

Special amusement buildings shall comply with Sections 914.7.1 and 914.7.2.

914.7.1 Automatic sprinkler system.

Special amusement buildings shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. Where the special amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply shall be of an approved temporary means.

Exception: Automatic sprinklers are not required where the total floor area of a temporary special amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet (93 m²) and the travel distance from any point to an exit is less than 50 feet (15 240 mm).

914.7.2 Automatic fire detection.

Special amusement buildings shall be equipped with an automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 907.2.11.

903.1 General.

Automatic sprinkler systems shall comply with this section.

903.1.1 Alternative protection.

Alternative automatic fire-extinguishing systems complying with Section 904 shall be permitted in lieu of automatic sprinkler protection where recognized by the applicable standard and approved by the fire code official.

903.3.1 Standards.

Sprinkler systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with Sections 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.

903.3.1.1 NFPA 13 sprinkler systems.

Where the provisions of this code require that a building or portion thereof be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with this section, sprinklers shall be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13 except as provided in Section 903.3.1.1.1.

903.3.1.1.1 Exempt locations.

Automatic sprinklers shall not be required in the following rooms or areas where such rooms or areas are protected with an approved automatic fire detection system in accordance with **Section 907.2** that will respond to visible or invisible particles of combustion. Sprinklers shall not be omitted from any room merely because it is damp, of fire-resistance rated construction or contains electrical equipment.

1. Any room where the application of water, or flame and water, constitutes a serious life or fire hazard.

2. Any room or space where sprinklers are considered undesirable because of the nature of the contents, when approved by the fire code official.
3. Generator and transformer rooms separated from the remainder of the building by walls and floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.
4. In rooms or areas that are of noncombustible construction with wholly noncombustible contents.

105.6 Required operational permits.

The fire code official is authorized to issue operational permits for the operations set forth in Sections 105.6.1 through 105.6.46.

105.6.2 Amusement buildings.

An operational permit is required to operate a special amusement building.

907.2 Where required—new buildings and structures.

An approved manual, automatic or manual and automatic fire alarm system installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72 shall be provided in new buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.23 and provide occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.10, unless other requirements are provided by another section of this code. Where automatic sprinkler protection installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 is provided and connected to the building fire alarm system, automatic heat detection required by this section shall not be required. The automatic fire detectors shall be smoke detectors. Where ambient conditions prohibit installation of automatic smoke detection, other automatic fire detection shall be allowed.

2006 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

SECTION 411

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS

411.1 General.

Special amusement buildings having an occupant load of 50 or more shall comply with the requirements for the appropriate Group A occupancy and this section. Amusement buildings having an occupant load of less than 50 shall comply with the requirements for a Group B occupancy and this section.

Exception: Amusement buildings or portions thereof that are without walls or a roof and constructed to prevent the accumulation of smoke

For flammable decorative materials, see the International Fire Code.

411.2 Special amusement building.

A special amusement building is any temporary or permanent building or portion thereof that is occupied for amusement, entertainment or educational purposes and that contains a device or system that conveys passengers or provides a walkway along, around or over a course in any direction so arranged that the means of egress path is not readily apparent due to visual or audio distractions or is intentionally confounded or is not readily available because of the nature of the attraction or mode of conveyance through the building or structure.

[F] 411.3 Automatic fire detection.

Special amusement buildings shall be equipped with an automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 907.

[F] 411.4 Automatic sprinkler system.

Special amusement buildings shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. Where the special amusement building is temporary, the sprinkler water supply shall be of an approved temporary means.

Exception: Automatic sprinklers are not required where the total floor area of a temporary special amusement building is less than 1,000 square feet (93 m²) and the travel distance from any point to an exit is less than 50 feet (15 240 mm).

[F] 411.5 Alarm.

Actuation of a single smoke detector, the automatic sprinkler system or other automatic fire detection device shall immediately sound an alarm at the building at a constantly attended location from which emergency action can be initiated including the capability of manual initiation of requirements in Section 907.2.11.2.

[F] 411.6 Emergency voice/alarm communications system.

An emergency voice/alarm communications system shall be provided in accordance with Sections 907.2.11 and 907.2.12.2, which is also permitted to serve as a public address system and shall be audible throughout the entire special amusement building.

411.7 Exit marking.

Exit signs shall be installed at the required exit or exit access doorways of amusement buildings. Approved directional exit markings shall also be provided. Where mirrors, mazes or other designs are utilized that disguise the path of egress travel such that they are not apparent, approved low-level exit signs and directional path markings shall be provided and located not more than 8 inches (203 mm) above the walking surface and on or near the path of egress travel. Such markings shall become visible in an emergency. The directional exit marking shall be activated by the automatic fire detection system and the automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 907.2.11.2.

411.8 Interior finish.

The interior finish shall be Class A in accordance with Section 803.1.